

COBBETT'S WEEKLY POLITICAL REGISTER.

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929]

[930

SUMMARY OF POLITICS.

MRS. CLARKE.—This lady has, at last, after long menacing, published her book, entitled the RIVAL PRINCES, than which a more flagrant catch-penny never issued from the shop of a low and greedy bookseller. The two Volumes, which are sold at 18s. do not contain so much print as *two news-papers*; and, more than one half of the matter consists of the history of the Upholsterer's bill and of the *two trials*, of all of which the public was before in possession.—The objects of the publication are evident enough; namely, 1. To get money; 2. to take vengeance upon Mr. WARDLE, Major DODD, and every other person, with whom the writer felt herself offended.—The first object will, to a certain extent, be accomplished; but the latter certainly will not, the *falsehood* as well as *malice* of the writer being visible in every page.—My name is introduced into this work; and, when I have remarked upon the assertions connected with it, the readers of the Register will, at any rate, be able to form a pretty tolerably correct opinion as to how far the bare word of MRS. CLARKE, unsupported by other evidence, is to be relied upon.—She says of me, that I became the *determined foe* of the Duke of York because *he refused* to dine with me, in a party which was to have taken place at her house. She tells a long story about the invitation and about putting it off, and about explanations, not *one word* of all which is true.—In this, as in other cases, she lays hold of a *single fact*, perfectly insignificant in itself perhaps, and upon it she builds her romantic story.—The truth, as relating to this matter, is, that Mr. ROBERT KNIGHT, at whose house I was dining, with Mr. Wm. Scott and others, in the *winter of 1806*, asked me if I had any objection to dine with him at Mrs. Clarke's, whom he spoke of as a very pretty woman in Gloucester Place, and this was the first time I had ever heard of her. After he had explained to me *who* and *what* she was, I agreed, at the end of much entreaty, to be of the party, if Mr. Wm. Scott would. Mr. Scott

agreed; but, before the day came, Mr. Scott being at my house (then at Parson's Green), I begged of him, in consequence of *my wife's objection* to my dining at such a place, to tell Mr. Knight, that I declined going.—So that all the whole story about the "*cards of invitation*," and about her "*putting the party off*," and my being "*disappointed*" and "*angry*" on this account; all this is *pure invention*, as Mr. Wm. Scott would, I am certain, at any time, testify, if it were necessary.—She further says, that an "*explanation*" of this took place, when I saw her at Westbourne Place, last year. So it did; but here there is a want of memory equal to the force of imagination so visible elsewhere; for, at the time and place here mentioned, she *reproached* me with not having dined with her in Gloucester Place, and I defended myself by telling her what was the real impediment, whereupon she observed, that, if that was the case, I should have some indulgence for *others* who submitted to *petticoat government*.—As she appeals to my Lord Folkestone, who was present at this interview, it is certainly her memory must have failed her; for, she would hardly have knowingly and uselessly exposed herself to the certain contempt of even one person.—It is a very just remark, that those who make free with facts should have *good memories*; and this is particularly necessary, when *time* and *place* are of any consequence. Mrs. Clarke says, that my *hostility*, as she calls it, to the Duke of York, arose from the Duke's *refusal* to dine with me. Now, in the first place, how was I to *know* of this refusal? She does not pretend, that she ever had any intercourse with me in her life. How, therefore, was I to know of the Duke's refusal? But, it is useless to reason about what is, by *undeniable facts*, proved to be false. By referring to the *Volumes of the Register*, it will be perceived, that the far greater part of my writings against the Duke of York took place in 1804 and 1805; whereas the invitation to dine with Mrs. Clarke took place *late in the month of February 1806*. These dates it is impossible for her to explain away. They can-

tain proof positive, *complete proof*, that what she says about my motives in attacking the Duke of York is *false*; and, it is very fair for me to conclude, as in sincerity I do believe, that what she says about the *motives of others* is equally false. In other cases the *proof* may be more difficult to come at; but, I think, that it is very fair to consider this as a criterion of her veracity; and that, as I said from the first, in the case of the Duke of York, that *her evidence alone, unsupported by any other*, ought not to be taken, especially when given against any one, on whom she manifestly thirsted for revenge, as was the case during the investigation, and as is equally the case now. She has changed her objects; but her vindictiveness is not less active now against Mr. Wardle, Major Dodd, Sir Richard Phillips and others, than it was against the Duke of York.—Another of her *statements of motives* will, I think, satisfy the reader as to her correctness in this way.—That, when I went to see her, along with Lord Folkestone, in Westbourne Place (I never saw her but that time in my life), I said very civil things to her, *because she was then the key-stone of Mr. Wardle's fame*. She says, that it was "*During the Investigation*" that Lord Folkestone took me to see her; and that, then, *while she was of so much use against the Duke of York, and the key-stone of Mr. Wardle's fame*; it was *then*, and for *that cause*, that I praised her; and that I have abused her since I found that she was no longer doing what she was *then* doing.—Here again she is overset by *dates*. She should keep a journal; or, she should endeavour to *strengthen her memory*. Is there no patent medicine for impotence in the recollecting faculties?—This is a very plausible story of hers, and all hangs together very nicely, 'till the reader is told, that the day, on which Lord Folkestone took me to see Mrs. Clarke (I never saw her but once) was the *third day of June, 1809, almost three months after the Investigation was ended*; above a fortnight (as will be seen by her own letter, p. 108, Vol. II.) after she had come to an *open rupture with Mr. Wardle*; and two days after Wright, her Upholsterer, had made his demand upon Mr. Wardle.—And yet, observe, she positively asserts, that it was *during the investigation and while she was serving the views of Col. Wardle*, that I went to see her and to say civil things to her! —I never was in London, during the Investigation. I was not in London, that

year, 'till the 2nd day of June. So that here again is proof positive, proof the most complete, of *falsehood*, proceeding either from a deliberately wicked mind, or from a total want of memory. Be it which it may, it shews that her *bare word* is worth nothing at all. And, then, observe, that, in the whole of the book, there is nothing alledged against *any body*, where the allegation does not *rest solely upon her bare word*; for, as to the letter of my Lord Folkestone, it contains *opinions* merely, which opinions are *conditional*, the condition being, that what *she had said was true*; and, I am satisfied, that his lordship has now found it to have been as false as these her assertions relating to me.—I think, that this might suffice; but I will give one more instance. It relates to the *brief* in the trial of the action brought by Wright.—She says: "Mr. Cobbett having got wind of the impending danger of his friend's popularity, made some inquiries upon the subject, and hearing, through Mr. Waithman, that he had seen the Colonel's Brief, which evinced an unspotted case, he gave him his assurance of support in his Weekly Register, but expressed a desire to see a fair copy of it, which Mr. Corfield immediately prepared with all necessary omissions, and Wardle sent it off to Botley. Cobbett and Waithman being impressed with a belief that this Brief contained the whole transaction, and it in no way impeached the character of their friend Wardle, as a gentleman, and a man of honour, they predicted the most favourable result to his cause.—As the trial approached, and as Colonel Wardle's fears gradually made him unfold circumstances that were not touched upon in the briefs, which had been prepared expressly to preserve his character with Cobbett and Waithman, Mr. Corfield began to see a little more into the real situation of his client, and advised accordingly."—One would hardly think it possible, that any person in the world could sit down and pen such a string of falsehoods. Yet, I solemnly declare, 1. that, so far from making any inquiries about Wright's action, I never heard of it, as far as I recollect, 'till I saw an account of the trial; 2. that Mr. Waithman never wrote to me, or spoke to me, upon the subject in his life; 3. that I never expressed any desire to see the brief; 4. that, the copy of the brief which was sent me (and that not 'till after the trial) was a copy, which had been in court

and that contained the notes *in the hand writing of the counsel*.—These are specimens of Mrs. Clarke's *veracity*. In fact, the whole book, with the exceptions of here and there a fact, is a *romance*; a thing of pure invention. Here and there a *fact* has been laid hold of, such, for instance, as *my having been at Westbourne Place with Lord Folkestone*; that is true; but all the circumstances engrafted on it are false, though stated with so much confidence. And, why should not this be the case with regard to those stories, which are related of others, and which, indeed, have the word *false* written upon their front?—The stories about a *mistress* kept by Mr. WARDLE, and another visited by MAJOR DODD, are, I am satisfied, wholly groundless.—As to the DUKE OF KENT, there is not, in this book, *the glimpse of a proof* that he had, either directly or indirectly, any hand at all in stirring the inquiries against the Duke of York. Here are letters from all sorts of persons; but, under the hand of no one, except that of Mrs. Clarke, do you see any thing relating, in the most distant manner, to the Duke of Kent. This accusation against the Duke of Kent has been *hatched*, like all the other accusations. It rests solely upon Mrs. Clarke's word; her *bare* word; which is, indeed, now become bare enough.—I have read this book through with great attention; and I do not find, that, except as far as Mrs. Clarke's *mere assertion* goes, it contains any thing that can, in any sound mind, injure *any body*; and, as to the chief objects of her malice, Messrs. WARDLE and DODD, not a shadow of proof is there, that either of them ever did or said any thing dishonourable; nay, any thing at all improper, or unbecoming them.—It has been asked, by some persons: "How can you account for this active and eager interference of Major Dodd, *unless you suppose, that the Duke of Kent set him on?*"—There may, indeed, exist a *doubt* upon this point; a *suspicion* may exist; but, surely, here is *no proof*. Great men, in general, ridicule the idea of making them responsible for what their secretaries do, *even in their offices*; and, where, then, is the justice of making the Duke of Kent answerable for what his Secretary did *out of his office, and out of his house*? I have known something of Mr. Dodd for *ten years* past; and I should suppose him to have followed the dictates of his *own mind* in co-operating

with Mr. Wardle. At any rate, there is *no proof*, nor the semblance of proof, to the contrary; and yet, it is stated, in the public prints, that Mr. Dodd's brother officers, that is to say the *officers of Artillery*, have made a declaration, that they *will not associate with him*, and this upon the ground of Mrs. Clarke's charges against him. The least offensive part of this declaration is its injustice, though that is offensive enough. But, the *baseness* of it is beyond all description. What, then! They thought Mr. Dodd was *down*, did they? They, at least, saw him marked out, and closely pursued; and, like the herd in the forest, they not only declined to defend him; but actually pitched on him in a body. I should hope, that this report is not true. I have witnessed a great deal of baseness in my time; but, I do not know that I ever even *heard* of any thing quite so base as this, especially when the *profession* of these persons is taken into view.—There has been much talk about the Letter of Lord Folkestone, as if it was, at least, a proof of great *folly*. I see, for my part, no such proof in it. I would not have written to Mrs. Clarke; but, what would have been very foolish in a man, situated as I am, might be very natural in a man situated as Lord Folkestone is. It was a letter written without much thought; but, I believe, that if the kept women, the strumpets of fashion, could all be induced to publish their correspondences, there would appear a hundred letters more foolish for one less foolish than this.—The use, which Mrs. Clarke makes, or would make, of this letter, is a clear proof of her want of foundation for any charges against the Duke of Kent, Mr. Wardle and Mr. Dodd; for what does the letter of Lord Folkestone contain, with regard to them? Why, an expression of *bad opinion*; but, then, that *bad opinion* is expressly grounded upon *what she had told him*! The letter does, in fact, contain nothing more than conclusions *drawn from premises furnished by herself*; and, she has the impudence to publish these conclusions as *corroborating the truth of those premises*.—Lord Folkestone has now publicly retracted the *bad opinion*, as he did privately long ago; and Mrs. Clarke expresses her curiosity to know what it is that can have altered his lordship's opinion. Only the finding that it was *founded upon her false assertions*; that is all. He obtained, so early as about Christmas last, complete proof that what she had told him

was false; and, like a just and honourable man, he immediately told Mr. Wardle, that he had imbibed opinions injurious to him, and had expressed himself accordingly. He did not recollect what he had, at the same time, said about Mr. Dodd; if he had recollected it, he would have made mention of that also.—The letter of Lord Folkestone, taken together with the retraction, are, in fact, the strongest presumptive proofs of the *falsehood* of Mrs. Clarke; and, indeed, if any thing could now be wanting to convince the public, that all the calumnies, of every sort, issued by her and her associates against Mr. Wardle, have had their origin in a most foul and infamous *Conspiracy*, these documents must produce that conviction.

SCARCITY OF CORN. — Since I mentioned this subject before, I have seen more and heard more, relative to it; and, every thing that I have seen, or heard, tends to confirm me in the opinion, that the crop of wheat will be short beyond all example. I still think, that it will not be *half* so great as the last year's crop; and, I should not at all wonder to see it forty or fifty pounds *a load* (40 bushels), even though Buonaparté should suffer us to get all we can from the continent of Europe; and, if he should put a stop to all exportation of corn, the price must be enormous, and the consequences may be fatal.—The short crop of *grass* will greatly add to the calamity; for the scarcity of hay must necessarily compel people to keep horses more upon *oats*, and that will cause another diminution in the food of man. From the long-continued drought, there is a likelihood that fodder will be scarce. Cattle are every where selling at reduced prices. Every one seems to wish to get rid of *mouths*. The consequence of this will be, that meat will be comparatively cheap for a little while, and, in winter, excessively dear. It is nonsense to say, that the wheat has mended. It cannot mend, where there is *none upon the ground*; and that is so generally the case as to make the prospect truly alarming.—Some people comfort themselves with the prospect of great importations from *America*. America never did, and never can, give us any very large supply; and besides, wheat is now *ten shillings a bushel* in America, and, of course, it could not reach us under about *forty pounds a load*. So that, at *this moment*, wheat, brought from America, must, in order to answer the purpose of the im-

porter, be sold much dearer than wheat is now selling here.—From America, then, nothing of any consequence can be expected; and the only question is, whether Buonaparté will, or will not, permit corn to be sent from the *Baltic* to England; if the former, the price may, possibly, be kept a little down; but, if he does not permit us to get corn from the Baltic, my sincere opinion is, that wheat will be *30 shillings a bushel*, and the *quartern loaf half a crown*, before Christmas; and certainly, that, let what will take place as to importation, meat will be exceedingly dear.—“Forewarned, forearmed,” they say; but, the only *arming* that can avail us in a case like this is that of *patience*. For, as to “*substitutes*,” and making *coarse flour*, and the like, they are of no use at all. The evil is a *deficiency in the quantity of food*, taking all sorts together; and for this there is really no other remedy than that of *doing with less food than usual*, until a more abundant supply can be obtained.

✍ In my next, I shall give some account of the *Trial*. Why I do not give it here, shall then be stated.

WM. COBBETT.

London, 22d June, 1810.

COBBETT'S Parliamentary Debates:

The Fifteenth Volume of the above Work is in the Press, and will be published with all proper dispatch. All Communications will be carefully attended to; but it is particularly requested that they may be forwarded as early as possible.

KING'S SPEECH AT THE PROROGATION.

On Thursday, the 21st of June, the Parliament was prorogued with the following Speech, by Commission:

My Lords and Gentlemen; His Majesty has commanded us to acquaint you, that, as the public business is now concluded, he thinks it proper to put an end to the present Session of Parliament.—We are commanded by his Majesty to express the satisfaction he derived from the reduction of the Island of Guadaloupe by his Majesty's arms, an event which, for the first time in the history of the wars of Great Britain, has wrested from France all her possessions in that quarter of the world; and which, together with the subsequent capture of the only colonies in

the West Indies which remained in the possession of the Dutch, has deprived his Majesty's enemies of every port in those seas, from which the interests of his Majesty, or the commerce of his subjects, can be molested.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons; His Majesty has commanded us to thank you for the liberal and ample supplies which you have granted for the services of the present year.—His Majesty deeply regrets the necessary extent of the demands which those services have created; but we are commanded to express to you the consolation which he has derived from observing that the resources of the country, manifesting themselves by every mark of prosperity, by a revenue increasing in almost all its branches, and by a commerce extending itself in new channels, and with an increased vigour in proportion as the enemy has in vain attempted to destroy it, have enabled you to provide for the expences of the year without imposing the burden of any new taxation in Great Britain; and that, while the taxes which have been necessarily resorted to for Ireland have been imposed upon articles which will not interfere with the growing prosperity of that country, you have found it consistent with a due regard to its finances to diminish some of those burdens, and relax some of those regulations of revenue which had been felt the most inconvenient in that part of the United Kingdom.—His Majesty further commands us to return you his thanks for the provision which you have enabled him to make for the establishment of his Serene Highness the Duke of Brunswick.

My Lords and Gentlemen; His Majesty has directed us to acquaint you, that Portugal, rescued from the oppression of the enemy, by the powerful assistance of his Majesty's arms, has exerted herself with vigour and energy in making every preparation for repelling, with the continued aid of his Majesty's forces, any renewed attack on the part of the enemy: and that in Spain, notwithstanding the reverses which have been experienced, the spirit of resistance against France still continues unsubdued and unabated: And his Majesty commands us to assure you of his firm and unaltered conviction, that not only the honour of his Throne, but the best interests of his dominions, require his most strenuous and persevering assistance to the glorious efforts of those loyal nations.

—His Majesty has commanded us to recommend to you, upon your return to your respective counties, to use your best exertions to promote that spirit of order and obedience to the laws, and that general concord amongst all classes of his Majesty's subjects, which can alone give full effect to his Majesty's paternal care for the welfare and happiness of his people. His Majesty has the fullest reliance upon the affections of his subjects, whose loyalty and attachment have hitherto supported him through that long and eventful period, during which it has pleased Divine Providence to commit the interests of these Dominions to his charge. His Majesty feels that the preservation of domestic peace and tranquillity, under the protection of the Law, and in obedience to its authority, is amongst the most important duties which he owes to his people.—His Majesty commands us to assure you that he will not be wanting in the discharge of that duty; and his Majesty will always rely with confidence on the continued support of his loyal subjects, to enable him to resist with success the designs of foreign enemies, and to transmit unimpaired to posterity the blessings of the British Constitution.

RESOLUTIONS, PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES,
&c. on the LIBERTY OF THE SUBJECT and
PARLIAMENTARY REFORM, 1810.

(Continued from p. 928.)

LIVERPOOL PETITION, concluded.

And that Sir Francis Burdett, Bart. also a Member of your hon. House, having in a Letter to his Constituents, on the committal of John Gale Jones, questioned the right of your honourable House to commit any one, not being a Member of the same, for an offence cognizable by the laws of the land, has, for the publishing of the above-mentioned Letter, been himself committed a prisoner to the Tower.—Your Petitioners further beg leave to state, that, reflecting upon the long continued impunity of the authors of national disasters, and also upon the impunity of Lord Castlereagh, and the vindication of Parliamentary Corruption, as compared with the proceedings lately adopted against Sir Francis Burdett, they are greatly apprehensive that an opinion may go abroad among the people at large, that a zealous maintenance of the liberty of the subject is a more flagrant offence in the eyes of your honourable House, than the wanton

destruction, by rashness and imbecility, of thousands of his Majesty's gallant soldiers and seamen, the profuse expenditure of the public resources, or the corruption of the representation of the people.—Your Petitioners, abstaining from animadversions on matters which will, in all probability, become the subjects of legal investigation, humbly state to your honourable House, that, considering the premises, and being anxiously desirous that the true dignity of your honourable House should be maintained, they do strongly, but respectfully press upon the consideration of your honourable House the necessity of a Reform in the Commons' House of Parliament, which may ensure the purity and integrity of your honourable House, and above all the responsibility of Ministers.—And they further beg leave to submit to the wisdom of your honourable House, the expediency of summoning Sir Francis Burdett, to assist in the deliberations which must necessarily take place on this momentous subject—and also of performing, what your Petitioners cannot but consider as an act of justice, by the liberation of John Gale Jones from imprisonment.

NOTTINGHAM RESOLUTIONS.

[The 8th Resolution was, by mistake, omitted at page 923; and is as follows.]

8. That the pledge which we demand is, that they do not sacrifice the Liberties of the people to their own undefined Privileges, and use constant and unceasing exertions to obtain a thorough Reform in the Commons' House of Parliament. To this we look as necessary to the security of our Liberties, to the salvation of our Country. If the House of Commons be not the Representative of the People, but of Peers—Where is the People's Voice to be heard; where is their cause to be pleaded? When the House of Commons shall truly represent the People, the Privileges of the Commons and the Liberties of the People will be one.—They will then ensure at once our respect, our confidence, and our firm and united support.

To SIR FRANCIS BURDETT. *The ADDRESS of the ELECTORS and INHABITANTS of the TOWN of NOTTINGHAM, in full Meeting assembled.*

Sir; In a period of general Depravity

and Corruption, when all Classes are more or less the slaves of Licentiousness and Vice, and from some, Virtue seems almost to have taken her flight, when Private Interest almost universally predominates over the Public Good, it requires no common degree of Firmness and Integrity to stand forth, and oppose the impetuous Torrent.—In such circumstances, the man is rarely to be found, who can at once resist the Temptations of Wealth and Power, despise the Taunts and Ridicule of those who have sacrificed Conscience at the shrine of Interest, brave the Threats of those who strive to crush all Opposition with the iron hand of Power, smile at the Frown of Adversity, and remain undaunted at the sight of the walls of a Prison. But rare as is the discovery, we are willing to hope and believe that the People of England have found such a man in You.

In this dearth of Public Virtue, labouring under repeated Disappointments, though not yet sunk into despair, we naturally become cautious in giving full credit to any man, until his integrity has been tried, and we have reason to believe that his Private Conduct corresponds with his Public Professions. From what we have been able to learn of your Private Life, the Duties of the several Relations in which you stand to Society, whether as Landlord, Husband, Father or Friend, have been properly fulfilled. With the greater confidence, therefore, we have looked for a faithful Discharge of your Public Duties, nor have our Expectations been hitherto disappointed. When by what is generally deemed a trifling sacrifice of Principle, you might have basked in the sun shine of Prosperity, you have chosen to weather the Storms of Adversity, folded in the Mantle of Integrity.

At one time the object of general odium, insulted by an infatuated and misguided People, you shrunk not from the Field of Duty to seek Popular Applause. But at length, in a great measure through your instrumentality, the eyes of the People are opened, their Burdens have made them feel, and their feelings have enlightened their understandings. They now see their real friends, and are ready to offer their Tribute of Gratitude to you. For your recent conduct, for your firm stand in defence of the Liberties and Rights of Britons accept our unqualified Thanks. But gratifying as the expression of the Approbation of your Fellow-subjects must necessarily be to your Feelings, we

trust that you possess a much higher source of gratification in the Approbation of your own Conscience. Go on, Sir, in your honourable career. No effort is lost. Let us not in this instance suffer disappointment. So shall the virtuous part of your Fellow-subjects revere and love you, and the Blessing of him that was ready to perish, shall come upon you.

THE CHRISTIANS' PETITION,

Presented to the House of Commons by Samuel Whitbread, Esq. on Friday, June 8th, 1810.

To the Honourable the Commons of this United Kingdom in Parliament assembled, The humble Petition of the undersigned Christians in behalf of themselves, and others who agree with them in considering absolute liberty of conscience respecting religion to be the unalienable right of all men,

Sheweth; That it is the duty of all men, to examine as diligently as may be in their power the doctrines of religion; and after such diligent examination, to adopt and to profess what may appear to them to be the truth; and that in the performance of that duty men ought not to be obstructed or discouraged, or otherwise tempted to act hypocritically by any law, tending to bias them in the course of such examination of the doctrines of religion, by subjecting them in the case of their dissenting from the doctrine of any established Church, to suffer death by burning or otherwise; or to suffer any corporal or pecuniary punishment, or be injured in their reputation by any disability more or less disgraceful.

That your Petitioners acknowledge with high satisfaction, that in the present reign considerable progress has been made towards the full restoration of the rights of conscience by the wisdom of Parliament and the benignity of the King, rescinding various laws in whole or in part which were violations of those rights: yet since other Penal Laws not less injurious to those rights remain unrepealed, since some of these laws subject to corporal punishments or pecuniary penalties; others, as in the case of the Test Laws passed in the reign of Charles II. subject to disgrace, disability and privation of civil rights, persons whose only offence it is, that in conformity with their duty, they have examined the doctrines of religion, and by such examination have been induced to embrace and to profess religious opinions different

from the doctrines of the established Church; your Petitioners feel it to be their duty humbly, but earnestly to remonstrate against the longer continuance of any of these intolerant laws; and they do in conformity with the premises expressly petition this Honourable House, that every such unjust law may be repealed, and the rights of conscience may thus be restored to all the subjects of this united kingdom; at the same time they declare to this Honourable House, that if the legislature of our country should not feel themselves convinced, as your Petitioners do, that every trace of intolerance ought to be immediately expunged from our statutes, yet if the repeal or modification of any of our intolerant laws should now take place, particularly if the Test Laws, as far as they affect our military force by sea and land, should now be repealed, your Petitioners would view with sincere gratitude any such measure, as a still farther advance towards the complete restoration of the rights of conscience, and at this crisis would consider it as having a salutary tendency to allay religious animosities, and to unite the great mass of the community, in a zealous defence of the empire against the meditated attack of our gigantic and all-grasping enemy. And your Petitioners shall ever pray.

To the Christians' Petition for liberty of conscience the signatures annexed, by Roman Catholics, members of the Church of England and Protestant Dissenters, which are contained in sixteen duplicates, amount to, viz.—

	Names.
In the duplicate from Sheffield	73
In that from Richmond	68
Newcastle	40
Hull.....	49
Leeds	156
Derby	183
Loughborough	60
York and Wakefield	29
Stockton	40
Nottingham.....	190
London	117
Exeter.....	109
Taunton	84
Gloucester	62
Birmingham	130
Norwich	170

The total amount of 16 duplicates 1,560

N. B. A Duplicate from Manchester containing 93 signatures, on account of informality, has been kept back.

THE DUKE OF KENT.

The Duke of Kent having seen a recent publication, entitled "The Rival Princes," in which he is charged with having sanctioned and encouraged the adoption and prosecution of measures tending to the manifest injury of a brother's honour and interests, it is impossible that he should not feel anxious to counteract immediately the impression which must dwell with the country, while such foul and unmerited aspersions remain unnoticed. To remove, therefore, from his character that stigma which would justly attach to it, if it were not in his power to prove that there has not at any time existed the smallest foundation for a charge, at the very idea of which every honest man must recoil with horror and indignation, the Duke of Kent has determined to lay before the public the following Declaration, which was made and committed to paper by Captain Dodd, on the 26th day of July last, in the presence of the Earl of Harrington and Colonel Vesey, and which was delivered to him, to be used at his discretion. At that period the Duke was induced to require this Declaration, with a view to his own satisfaction, in consequence of various reports and insinuations which have gained circulation. The communication of it was consequently confined to his own family, and to some of his friends; and he had flattered himself that it would be unnecessary to make any appeal to the public, on a matter which affected himself exclusively: nor is it without sincere concern, that he now finds himself under the necessity of entering thus publicly into a vindication of his conduct. He is, however, confident that every liberal mind will give him credit for taking a step which he feels to be due to his character, to the honour and dignity of his family, and which marks his anxiety to stand well with the country in general.

QUERIES put to Captain Dodd, by his Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, and his Answers thereto, 26th July 1809.

Q. Have I, either directly or indirectly, sanctioned, advised, or encouraged, any attack upon the Duke of York?—A. Never. (Signed T. Dodd.)

Q. Have I had, to your knowledge, any acquaintance or communication with Colonel Wardle, or any of the persons concerned in bringing forward the Investigation respecting the Duke of York's con-

duct, which took place in Parliament last winter, either direct or indirect?—A. I feel confident that your Royal Highness has no such knowledge or acquaintance. (Signed T. Dodd.)

Q. Have I, to your knowledge, ever had any acquaintance with, or knowledge of, Mrs. Clarke, or any communication with her, direct or indirect, upon the subject above-named, or any other?—A. I am confident your Royal Highness never had. (Signed T. Dodd.)

Q. Have I ever expressed to you any sentiment which could induce you to believe that I approved of what was brought forward in Parliament against the Duke of York, or any proceeding that would tend to his obloquy or disgrace?—A. Never. I have heard your Royal Highness lament the business, *viva voce*, and you made the same communication to me in writing. (Signed T. Dodd.)

Q. Have you ever, to your recollection, expressed yourself, either by word or in writing, either to Colonel Wardle or Mrs. Clarke, or to any other person, connected with the investigation on the Duke of York's conduct, in any way that could give them reason to suppose that I approved of the measure, or would countenance those concerned in bringing it forward?—A. Never. But I have, on the contrary, expressed myself, that your Royal Highness would have a very different feeling. (Signed T. Dodd.)

Q. What were my expressions on the subject of the Pamphlet which appeared, passing censure on the conduct of the Duke of York, and others of my family, and holding up my character to praise; and what have been the sentiments which I have uniformly expressed on similar publications, whether in the newspapers or otherwise?—A. I have invariably heard your Royal Highness regret, that any person should attempt to do justice to your own character, at the expence of that of the Duke of York, or any other member of your Family—(Signed T. Dodd.)

Q. During the ten years you have been my private Secretary, when, in the most confidential moments I have given vent to my wounded feelings, upon professional subjects, did you ever hear me express myself inimical to the Duke of York, or that I entertained an expectation of raising myself by his fall?—A. Never; on the contrary, I have frequently heard your Royal Highness express yourself very differently. (T. Dodd.)



The above Questions, written in Colonel Vesey's hand, were all dictated by me,

(Signed) EDWARD.

In the presence of Lord Harrington.

(Signed) HARRINGTON.

J. A. VESEY.

JEFFERY, THE SEAMAN.

The following deposition is said to have been received by Government:—

DEPOSITION.

"This is to certify, that personally appeared before me, John Dennis, Master of the American schooner, Adams, belonging to Marblehead, in the State of Massachusetts, and voluntarily made oath, that in the month of December, 1807, he did whilst passing the island of Sombrero, in the Sombrero Passage, in the West Indies, discover from his vessel a man waving his hand on the said island, whereupon the said deponent hove his vessel to, and sent his boat on shore with the mate, who found a man on the said island extremely reduced and exhausted, so as not to be able to speak. That the man having been brought on board the schooner, and somewhat recovered, declared that his name was Robert Jeffery, a seaman, belonging to his Majesty's brig of war *Recruit*, commanded by Capt. Warwick Lake, and that he had been eight days on the said island.—This deponent further said, that the said Robert Jeffery became quite recovered, and went to Beverley, where he resided, working at his trade of a blacksmith when deponent last saw him. JOHN DENNIS.

Sworn before me, at Corunna, 19th May 1810. J. L. MANIAC, Vice-Cons.

Done in the presence of Geo. Digby, Captain of his Majesty's ship *Cossack*, and Geo. White, Assistant Commissary.

(A true Copy) GEO. DIGBY.

ON THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF PRIVILEGE OF PARLIAMENT; *on Constitutional Principles.*

I own that to me, from the vast importance of the subject to the whole community, it did not appear improbable that some Member of the House of Commons would have moved for leave to bring in a Bill, which might have further prevented Public Inconvenience, from the indefinite nature of the claim of Privilege of Parliament. The great benefit of known Laws is immediately and generally obvious. Indeed, I know not how to give the deno-

mination of law to that which is not, and which cannot be made generally certain, and upon which Lawyers themselves have no rules and principles enabling them to answer. The only reasons for leaving the claim indefinite, which I have observed to be advanced, either now or formerly, have been the necessity for Parliament and for the people, that the Privilege should be independent of any exterior judicial interpretation; and that the power of an assembly which, by its constitutional function is protective of the Rights and Liberties of the Community, should act of itself, and its own inherent energies, without awaiting the judgment of any other jurisdiction within a certain extent, which I have admitted and stated from the first; I think this principle is clear, necessary and certain; that of interfering in cases of direct contempt, or, in other words, to remove obstructions to its proceedings. Beyond this, with the utmost attention to the arguments before or since advanced, and with a desire of finding arguments, if any should appear to me to be justly imaginable, being not solicitous for victory but for truth, I can find nothing.

The greatest, wisest, and most virtuous assembly upon earth may be libelled; and I know not any greater, wiser, or more virtuous, than the House of Commons, according to the Constitution, is capable of being, and has been. But were it libelled, when such, and for being such, I do not think it would condescend to bring the libeller to trial: But that rather, it would leave him to his conscience and the pressure of public sentiment. It would lose nothing of the order, dignity, and constitutional efficacy of its proceedings, howsoever libelled.

If either House could want this Privilege as a shield against possible violations of its Rights, either by the Crown or the other House, that would be an argument for its existence and for its exercise: But it is not in the nature of a shield, an exemption from injury—a severity necessary to its constitutional functions, which are the proper characteristics of a Public Privilege. It is, as properly has been said, a power; which has no definite limits: which claims to be without any but the pleasure of that body by which it is employed;—to be unassailable, unexamined; subject, in case of its being misapplied, to no compensation, redress, or remedy; unlimited by rules of judicial inquiry, or judicial sentence, not only

positive, but such as appear most immediately to result from natural right of reason. Can such a power be necessary or expedient to be exercised by any assembly? Can it be requisite for the maintenance of their just and constitutional authority; or to enable them to protect the rights and liberties of the community? And if it be not, ought they not to restrict it within those limits of just and clear necessity within which it would be so?

One of the greatest and most peculiar powers of the House of Commons is the power of impeachment; yet in this great and awful power it inquires, it accuses in the name and behalf of the whole community of the realm; but it does not try, judge or punish.

It is fit and constitutional that it should have powers which no other assembly has; but it is neither for its dignity, nor the public benefit, that it should exercise powers which many other assemblies have, and have, at the same time, better means of executing them for the attainment of public justice. For this purpose, there are tribunals by the Law and Constitution prescribed and appropriate; where the forms of proceeding, the means and the settled habit of investigation, and their general exemption from all interest on one side or the other, are manifestly most suited to the end.

It is fit that it should be respected; but it is fit that the People, its Constituent, whenever it exists rightly and according to the Constitution, should be respected also. It is fit that the opinions, the reasons, the feelings of the People, how far soever from pleasing may be the subject, should have the most free access to that great assembly: which, popular in its name, popular in its origin, popular by the very object and peculiar end of its constitution, must be estranged from its most essential character, if at any time it be unmindful of popular rights and interests. It is always in its choice to secure all its necessary and essential privileges from disturbance; but there is no privilege so essential to it—none so dignified, as that of being felt to be the Representative of the People. It cannot be the interest of the People, or its own true and permanent interest, that the House of Commons should be censurers and punishers for publications supposed to be libels on itself. If any are supposed to be so, there is no instance in which all the principles,

rules and resolutions of Judicial Courts, solely occupied in legal investigation, can be more necessary. Of a Representative and Legislative Assembly, the glory to which a situation, pre-eminent as theirs, offers to them is, to soar above all thought of libel, real or supposed, and to be entirely occupied in great and public councils—to avail itself of truth, in whatever form; and of free and valuable suggestions from all quarters—regardless whether the manner be soothing in which they are conveyed.

If I thought, that to commit on charges of supposed libel, and in the manner and to the extent in which alone that power can be exercised by the forms of the House and the nature of its Constitution, could be necessary to the House; could be beneficial, or even safe, to the public, and not most dangerous to both, I would say so. But I can see no reason advanced in support of that opinion; I can imagine no reason that seems to me capable of sustaining such a conclusion. I remain, therefore, in the wish, I can hardly say the hope, that the House itself may discover the propriety, the dignity, the necessity of limiting a power, the exercise of which is not only faintly expressed by being termed inconvenient, but would be faintly characterized by much stronger language. If, as having no constituted superior, it should think all things lawful to it, this cannot be forgotten, that all are not expedient. And in a constitutional sense, general and permanent knowledge of public expediency is the measure and criterion of constitutional law.

CAPEL LOFFT.

*Troston Hall, near Bury, Suffolk,
11th May, 1810.*

CAPTAIN FOSKETT.

To the Honourable the House of Commons, in Parliament assembled.—
The Humble PETITION of Henry Foskett, Captain in the 15th Regiment of Light Dragoons;

Sheweth;

That your Petitioner has been an Officer in the 15th Light Dragoons, above thirteen years, and senior Captain in that Regiment above four years. That, during the last mentioned space of time, he has, in various ways, been made to suffer, from his Colonel, his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland, the most injurious treatment, amounting to no less than a course of

systematic oppression. That, in the year 1806, in a manner contrary to the acknowledged custom and constitution of the army, his Royal Highness endeavoured to promote an Officer of the 15th Light Dragoons, and junior to your Petitioner, in preference to him, to a Majority in the Regiment, which purpose he was prevented from effecting, solely by the interposition of his Royal Highness the Duke of York, at that time the Commander in Chief. That your Petitioner having, on the above occasion, solicited a week's leave of absence, in order the more certainly to obtain such interposition, by means of a personal appeal, in support of a Memorial transmitted to the Commander in Chief, he was, for five successive months, most vexatiously refused that indulgence, although he was, at that very time, entitled, under General Orders, to leave of absence for two or three months, and although junior officers were then actually allowed that permission. That your Petitioner, notwithstanding his final success, in thus preventing a junior officer from being raised above him, has, from that time, been unjustly deprived of promotion, in the usual course of his regiment, to the injury not only of your Petitioner, but of all the Captains and Subalterns of the corps, whose promotion has thereby been, and still is, entirely stopped.

That, in the year 1808, when the 15th Light Dragoons was ordered upon foreign service, in Spain, your Petitioner, though Senior Captain, was directed, by his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland, to remain at home with the recruiting squadron. That upon complaining to the Commanding Officer of the Regiment, of a management so inconsistent with the established custom of the army, and fraught with such extreme hardship to your Petitioner, he (the Commanding Officer) disdaining all participation in the transaction, referred your Petitioner's complaint officially to his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland, by whom it was dismissed, and who declared the arrangement to be unalterable.

That your Petitioner thereupon thought himself bound to solicit the interference of the Commander in Chief, when the Duke of Cumberland, in explanation of his own conduct, permitted himself to cast on your Petitioner's character the most injurious aspersions, which, notwithstanding the authority from whence they came,

were soon proved to be utterly unfounded; as the Commander in Chief, though at first induced by them to sanction the arrangement of which they were the assigned cause, yet, upon further remonstrance on the part of your Petitioner, and on further consideration of the case, his Royal Highness was graciously pleased to revoke his consent to the arrangement in question, and to direct that a Captain should be sent home from the Regiment in Spain, upon whose arrival the Petitioner was to be at liberty to join; a permission, however, of which, gracious and acceptable as it was, your Petitioner was not able to take advantage, as the regiment soon afterwards returned home; and thus your Petitioner was oppressively made to sustain the irreparable loss of an opportunity, so anxiously desired by every British Officer, of serving his Sovereign and his country, against their foreign enemies.

That your Petitioner having suffered, during so long a time, such heavy and complicated injuries, finding himself shut out from all hopes of advancement in his profession, by the avowed determination of his Commanding Officer (expressed in terms the most injurious) not to recommend him for promotion; and at the same time, rendered an insurmountable obstacle to the advancement of every Officer, junior to himself, in the regiment; having in vain repeatedly and earnestly called for the strictest investigation of his conduct, and declared his readiness, and even his anxiety, to meet any charge that could be brought against him, and perceiving that fresh complaints of ill-treatment only served to subject him to fresh aspersions; your Petitioner saw that he had no chance for redress, but from the justice of the Commander in Chief.—That he, therefore, in the month of July, 1809, laid his case before his Excellency, imploring his interference and protection.—That this communication was accompanied with testimonials to the undeviating good conduct of your Petitioner, from almost every commanding officer of the regiment, under whom your Petitioner had served; and who must have had far better opportunities of observing his general deportment, than his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland.—That while your Petitioner's complaints were before the Commander in Chief his just claims to promotion were again defeated, by the introduction of Officers from other regiments, to fill up the two Majorities of the 15th Light Dra-

goons, which were then vacant:—Then seeing himself thus excluded from all prospect of relief, in the ordinary course, your Petitioner was reduced to the necessity of soliciting, from the Commander-in-Chief, an application in his favour, of the 12th section of the Articles of War, which states that,

“If any Officer shall think himself to be wronged by his Colonel, or the Commanding Officer of the regiment, and shall, upon due application made to him, be refused to be redressed, he may complain to the General Commanding in Chief our forces, in order to obtain justice; who is thereby required to examine into such complaint, and either by himself, or by our Secretary at War, to make his report to us thereupon, in order to receive our farther directions.”

That your Petitioner accordingly on the twenty-sixth of September, 1809, addressed a letter to Colonel Gordon, Military Secretary, for the consideration of the Commander in Chief, in which, after briefly recapitulating the injuries, of which he had ineffectually complained, he expressly requested the Commander-in-Chief, in conformity with the 12th section of the Articles of War, to examine into the complaints which he had laid before him, and (unless he was graciously pleased to afford him redress) to make his report to his Majesty thereupon. That this request being attended with no other effect than an offer of promotion in a regiment of infantry, which your Petitioner could not accept, consistently either with his own just claims, his wounded feelings, and his aspersed character, or, in the situation in which he was placed, with what was due from him to the army, he has since, in two subsequent letters, explicitly repeated his request, that the Commander-in-Chief would investigate his complaints, and report to his majesty thereupon; to which request he at length received an official answer from the Military Secretary, dated February the 12th, 1810, and couched in the following terms:—

“SIR;—I have not failed to lay before the Commander-in-Chief your letter of the 10th instant, and I am directed to acquaint you, that sir David Dundas does not see sufficient grounds for complying with your request.

(Signed) H. TORRENS.”

That, by this refusal, on the part of the Commander-in-Chief, to comply with

your Petitioner's request, as above stated, unless your Honourable House shall be pleased to afford him relief, he has no means of redress for the wrongs which have been heaped upon him, in his military character; in as much as the 12th section of the Articles of War, afford the only remedy, of which an Officer of the Army, who has been wronged by his Colonel, and by him refused redress, can avail himself; and that, therefore, the denial of justice in your Petitioner's case, by the Commander-in-Chief, in direct violation of the Articles of War, is a most serious injury, not only to your Petitioner but also to the whole Army, by rendering nugatory the only remedy afforded to officers against the acts of their superiors, and by thus depriving them of the inestimable right, so amply secured to every other class of British subjects, that of employing the means provided by the Law and Constitution, for the redress of oppression and injustice.

All which your Petitioner most humbly submits to the consideration of your Honourable House, being ready to verify the same. And he implores your Honourable House, to afford him such relief, as to its wisdom shall seem meet.

And your Petitioner shall ever pray, &c.

(Signed) HENRY FOSKETT,
Capt. 15th Lt. Dragoons.

OFFICIAL PAPERS.

INTERCEPTED CORRESPONDENCE.

LETTER from Napoleon to the Queen of Sicily, upon the occasion of the Union he had contracted with her Niece, the Archduchess Maria Louisa.

[It was inclosed in a letter from Madam Beuret, dated Paris, the 28th February, to her husband, the Colonel of the 17th regiment of light infantry, in the second division of the second corps of the French army in Spain, and was intercepted by the light parties attached to the army of the left. The original is in the possession of his Excellency the Marquis of Romana, to whom it was delivered.]

Letter from Madame Beuret to her husband.

My dear and good friend!—I have just received a pretty large packet, inclosing a letter for myself, one for M. Clerisif, another for the Mayor of La Riviere, and a fourth for M. De Barthiley. I am very glad that you have written to the last

mentioned, as my papa had just received a letter from him, complaining of your silence, and expressing his fears, that you would imitate your protector, and forget him. He is much attached to you, and will write to you as soon as we have informed him of the number of your corps and division. You say nothing concerning your health; but I conclude that you are completely recovered, from your frequenting the lodges of the freemasons. Mine is good, notwithstanding the cold we experience here. Papa and mama are very well, and Eugene better than any of us. He is continually talking of you, and is the favourite of the family, and the object of our caresses. I shall give the best reception to Mrs. de Bureau, when she arrives. You need not be uneasy, for I will carefully attend to your orders. A number of new battalions are raising for the imperial guard; and all the young men prefer serving in a corps which usually remains in garrison, in Paris, to going to die in Spain. It is said the Emperor sets off for that kingdom on the 20th inst., but there is nothing certain upon this subject. God grant that he may go; for you might, probably, in that case, be placed near his person, and obtain a handsome estate of 5,000 pieces a-year, with the title of Baron! This would be tolerably well, and I assure you that I should be not a little proud of hearing myself styled my Lady Baroness; but for the present I have renounced all hopes, and shall think myself very happy in seeing you once more. The war with Spain is universally pronounced to be an endless contest; for such is the ferocity of its inhabitants, that they would sooner convert the whole of their country into a desert than receive the Emperor's brother! What barbarians those Spaniards are! What a set of cannibals! I hate them implacably, and particularly the friars. You are already apprised of the intended marriage of our Emperor with an Archduchess of Austria. Some think favourably of this match; but the major part are of opinion, that it will prove the ruin of Napoleon. It is said that Josephine already begins to be an object of alarm to the Emperor; and it is confidently rumoured that Russia is on the eve of breaking with us. When will our wars have an end? Our Italian friend, who visits in the Duke of Bassano's family, has given me the inclosed copy of a letter to be forwarded to you, which is certainly a very

singular production. It is said that the Queen of Sicily will not accept the proposals of the Emperor, and that a new and sanguinary war is about to commence. I leave you to think with what regret I hear such tidings. Adieu, my esteemed friend! I embrace and love you with my whole heart! Your best and most faithful friend.
P. BEURET DE CELLERIER.

P. S. Mama and Papa, and the whole family, charge me with a thousand things to you. I have not yet received the letter for your pension as a Member of the Legion of Honour.

Copy of a LETTER from his Majesty the Emperor of the French, King of Italy, &c. to her Majesty the Queen of Sicily.

Madam and Cousin.—The events of the year 1805 interrupted our friendship and harmony. A formidable coalition against France, artfully planned in the cabinet of Mr. Pitt, and masked in an extraordinary manner, had put in motion against my legions, that were posted on the coasts of the ocean, the Russian, German, and Prussian armies. In that critical situation, my duty was to deliver France from the conflict, and to disperse the dreadful storm, or at least to diminish its effects. This I at length accomplished, by bringing Prussia, Wirtemberg, and Bavaria, to a sense of their own interests; and by forming a treaty with King Ferdinand, your Majesty's spouse, in which he engaged not to receive in his kingdom either Russian or English troops. In consequence hereof, my troops evacuated his states. War was declared; and scarcely had my eagles entered Vienna in triumph, when I learned that the Court of Naples had violated the sacred faith of the treaty, and was admitting an army into its very capital.

I instantly knew that the seductive gold of England, opportunely employed by her agent, Acton, had triumphed over the debility of King Ferdinand. The battle of Austerlitz secured to me the happy result of a war unjustly provoked; and France and her allies loudly demanded the destruction of the Dynasty of Naples, which its perjury had covered with disgrace! Placed in this critical situation, and being a Constitutional Monarch, what resource had I left? Your Majesty, who have experienced the arrogance of your subjects, knows, and I ought to know, that we Sovereigns must frequently stifle our own inclinations, from a regard to the in-

terests, and even the prejudices, of the people we govern. Thus was the fate of the House of Naples decided; and it was doomed to lose its kingdom, without any possibility on my part to prevent it! What pangs did this determination cost me! How odious in my eyes were the sceptre and crown, when I found myself compelled to a proceeding so adverse to my own sentiments! Nevertheless, I did not lose sight of the interests of a misled and disgraced dynasty; and when it became impossible for me to re-establish it in Italy, I thought of giving it an equivalent elsewhere. The propositions which I made, from Erfurth, to King George, leave no doubt as to this fact. To the war of Germany, notwithstanding the pacific overtures by Lord Lauderdale, and the announced voyages of the Russian Messenger, Novozitzoff, immediately succeeded that of Prussia, whose Sovereign would not agree to the moderate proposals which I made him. Instigated and blinded by Russia, and the insinuations and promises of England, he, in a manner, presumed to dictate the law to me, when his situation was such as should have rather prepared him to receive it.—A few days sufficed to convince him of his error; and, notwithstanding his misconduct, my moderation left him in possession of half his states. The peace of Tilsit once more tranquilized Europe; and I should have put an end to the calamities of war, had I not been convinced of the bad faith of the House of Spain, which, though my ally, merely hesitated to declare against me, in consequence of being confounded by the victory of Jena. The scandalous quarrels between the Father and Son, the ambition and sordid conduct of the Prince of the Peace, and the wish of rendering happy, and divesting of its prejudices, a nation of the first rank, made me turn my views upon that kingdom. The Spaniards were dissatisfied with the government of king Charles, and prince Ferdinand, held out to Europe as a traitor by his father, could not ascend a throne, which, since the time of Lewis XIV, has belonged to France. On the other hand, Portugal was an English province; and the parliament of that nation having resolved upon the system of perpetual war, it was necessary to exclude their squadrons from the Continent, before they could have an opportunity of re-committing such an enormity as their attack upon Copenhagen. Impelled by this combination of motives, I sent my

troops into those kingdoms, and all the projected changes would have been effected without the least disturbance, had not the Spaniards been led astray by English monopoly, and the fanaticism of the monks. The confidence and security which I entertained upon this subject, and the ignorance of some of my generals, occasioned the petty losses I have suffered in that quarter, and which the enemies of order have celebrated in an extraordinary manner. But Europe soon saw what was to have been expected of the Spaniards, and the Junta of Seville, whose measures were totally subverted in the first instance by the battle of Tudela, and subsequently by that of Ocana.

“The crown of Arragon, which retained some attachment to the House of Austria, is the only one that has opposed a regular resistance: and amidst the events that during the last two years have occurred in Spain, those alone which merit any attention are the defences of Saragossa and Gerona, which were owing more to the obstinacy and fanaticism of the monks, than to the valour and discipline of their garrisons. In short, Spain is conquered; and the English have no longer any point of support in it, except Cadiz, and a handful of insurgents headed by the traitor Romana. The forces they have in Portugal merely wait until my troops are in motion, when they will immediately embark; and I am convinced that the Portuguese army will experience a disastrous fate. How characteristic is it of commercial nations to sacrifice their allies! The hearts of the English are metallified; and they act only from the impulse of gain. With them there is neither honour nor faith, nor do they hold any obligation sacred.—They have sacrificed your Majesty’s House, Denmark, Sweden, Holland, Austria, Prussia, and latterly, Portugal and Spain. But, at this moment, they have no friends on the Continent; they have lost all their relations with it. I make this representation to your Majesty, to impress you with the truth of my expressions, and the absolute necessity under which I find myself of sacrificing some dynasties. But a new order of things is about to succeed, and every thing will be remedied. France, though friendly to innovation, entertains, nevertheless, great attachment and deference for established usages and customs.

The same people who destroyed the throne did not cease until they re-establish-

ed it with greater pomp and splendour than it had before; and I have found myself under the necessity of creating a Nobility, to which, however, I have given a more convenient form than that of the ancient order. In like manner, Monarchical France claims and insists upon her rights to those crowns which she formerly possessed, and your Majesty will instantly perceive, that events may occasion a change of Dynasty in France, but not any variation or alteration in her rights or relations. From this motive I have resolved to place the crowns of Spain and Italy on the heads of brothers and relations, who, besides being Princes of my House, conceive that they have contributed to my elevation to the throne. Your Majesty, who are aware that every thing is linked together by immutable laws, will perceive the necessity that has compelled me to adopt this rule. As to what concerns the alterations in the north, I assure your Majesty that I have no particular interest in them. I have merely permitted them with the view of diminishing the power and influence of Russia, which, regarding the other states of Europe as continually divided, and always having different interests, like the republics of Greece in ancient times, may one day become what Macedonia was in respect to them; and the present Alexander, perhaps, subjugate more nations than he who penetrated as far as India. The prejudices of the House of Austria, which has impolitically exerted itself to sustain the rights of that of Bourbon, have hitherto made me act in opposition to my intentions, so that I have been obliged to temporize with the Czar of the Russians, whose interests are different from mine, and whose inclinations follow the impulse given them by the intrigues and parties in his court. The late war with Austria has enlightened the Emperor Francis with regard to his interest; and I, who am attached to the old system of France, have proposed and obtained an alliance with one of his daughters. It is with the highest satisfaction that I announce to your Majesty this stroke of my policy, which, at the same time that it will confer happiness on the greater part of Europe, will open a way for me to obtain the regard and esteem of your Majesty. I am anxious that this marriage should be represented by your Majesty to Europe to be what it truly is, just, equal, and proper. I, who am faithful to my promises, and powerful

to accomplish them, will gratefully repay your Majesty for the interest which you will thus take in the tranquillity of so many nations. The dynasties of Bourbon will all of them be indemnified for their losses. The Princes of the House of Spain will receive their indemnification in countries which have no contact with France, and where their relations cannot be adverse to my dynasty. As to your Majesty's House, I will make every possible exertion in its favour. Master of Spain and Portugal, it will not be difficult for me to take Gibraltar, and I shall then exclude the English from the Mediterranean. They will lose Malta; and in the coast of Africa and Egypt, I shall find colonies superior to those I have lost. France, from its situation, needs no islands; and if your Majesty consider it topographically, you will observe that in reality none belong to her. In this point of view, Sicily, Sardinia, Corsica, Malta, the Ionian islands, and several of the Archipelago, will form the patrimony of your Majesty's line, which, in that case, may look upon itself as the England of the Mediterranean. Let not your Majesty persist in the wish to recover the states which your family formerly possessed in Italy.—Imperious circumstances have compelled me to make so many variations, that it is now impossible to alter them, and the islands above enumerated are a complete equivalent. I have explained my ideas to your Majesty, at full length, and have spoken to you with that sincerity which becomes one who is on the eve of being your nephew.—From henceforth, all feelings of rancour, animosity, and passion, should cease. I forget the injuries I have received; and your Majesty ought to regard me as your relative and your ally. My cause and my interests ought to be those of your Majesty, as those that belong to you shall be mine. I shall aggrandize the dominions of the House of Austria, restore her to her ancient splendour, make her mistress of the Danube, give her ports on the Black Sea, and, in short, a navy, which shall command the whole of that sea, and whose flag will be respected in the Archipelago.

“I will assist her in her quarrels with Russia; and the Princes, the brothers of the Emperor Francis, shall reign over countries which that power has usurped ever since the time of Peter the Great. In recompence for all this, I require only the friendship, the good-will of your Ma-

nesty. Upon this depends the happiness of more than an hundred millions of souls; and I, who am interested in the welfare of so many nations, pray and supplicate your Majesty to second my intentions. Let not prejudices, erroneous views of interest, and, above all, the seductive artifices of the English, cause your Majesty to lose so favourable a conjuncture.

“Let your Majesty, availing yourself of your natural talent and perspicacity, avoid being surprised by those who hover about your spouse. May Europe not see herself frustrated of this basis of felicity; in consequence of which, the interest of all the dynasties being conciliated, they may fall with their whole weight upon the pirates! May the present generation, in front of whom Providence has placed us, witness the sacrifice which Monarchs shall be disposed to make of their passions! This I expect of your Majesty, and so I entreat that he may take you into his holy and worthy keeping, &c.”

NEW DUTCH DECREE.

Louis Napoleon, by the Grace of God and the Constitution of the Kingdom, King of Holland, Constable of France.

Upon the Report of our Minister of Finance, of the 21st of May, 1810, &c.—We have decreed, and hereby decree,

Art. 1. The line of two thousand rods, established by our decree of the 25th of May, 1809, No. 25, and further described in our decree of the 5th of November, 1809, No. 12, within which limits, with the exception of certain places therein mentioned, and the Town of the Hague, are prohibited all magazines, depots or warehouses of colonial goods and English manufactures, or articles held to be such according to the Proclamation of the 31st of May 1805, is extended to the distance of five thousand rods from the sea-coasts. All unlicensed magazines found within the former space, shall be put under sequestration, to be disposed of in such manner as shall be farther provided.

2. The proprietors of such magazines lying between the distance of two thousand, and that of five thousand rods from the sea-coasts, shall be at liberty to clear and carry off the same, within the space of 14 days, under the authority of inland permits.

3. All licensed retail dealers shall deliver in at the nearest office of the Director by Water, a special declaration in writing of their stock in hand.

4. The necessary sufferances shall be delivered to the retail dealers, to ascertain the colonial goods and manufactures which they may keep on hand in order to carry on their trade. This stock shall be regulated by the average of the extent of their licences, and the amount of their payments to the weigh-house tax, in case they are rated thereto. The quantity, however, shall in no case exceed one-third of the annual sales.

5. The local authorities shall, within the shortest possible period, transmit to the Director-General of the Middel en te Water, lists of the licensed shop-keepers within their respective districts, dealing in colonial commodities and manufactures, with a statement of the sum they are rated at, to the weigh-house tax, which statement they are empowered to demand of the Receiver or Collector of the Middel en te Lande. The said lists are to be accompanied with such remarks as tend to make the Director-General more particularly acquainted with their local interests in this respect.

6. The present decree shall be published in the Bulletin of Laws.

7. Our Minister of Finance, Justice, and Police, and also the Director-General of the Middel en te Water, are charged with the execution of the present decree.

Given at our Palace at Haarlem, this 24th day of May, in the year 1810, and of our reign the fifth.

(Signed) LOUIS NAPOLEON.